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LETTER DATED 28 MAY 1997 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALI TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to request you to have the text of the statement issued by the Malian Government following the coup d'état in Sierra Leone circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Moctar OUANE
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement by the Malian Government following the coup d'état in Sierra Leone, issued in Koulouba, Mali, on 26 May 1997

The Government and people of Mali were deeply dismayed to learn the news of the coup d'état that had taken place on 25 May 1997 against President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, who had been democratically elected by the Sierra Leonean people on 13 March 1996.

This military putsch, contrary to the basic principles of democracy, is a grave assault against the dignity and free choice of a people who rightly aspire to build a state based on the rule of law after having undergone so many years of instability and civil war.

The people of Mali and their Government unreservedly condemn the use of force as a means of achieving power and call upon the military putschists to heed the voice of reason and restore power to the institutions democratically elected by the Sierra Leonean people.

Convinced that there can be no economic and social development without peace and democracy, they reaffirm their steadfast and complete support for the people and the legal Government of Sierra Leone and call upon the Organization of African Unity and the international community to bring about the immediate restoration of legality in Sierra Leone.

The Government of Mali declares its solidarity with the fraternal and friendly people of Sierra Leone, who aspire only to achieve development in an atmosphere of peace and true democracy.